



In Partnership With



Memorandum

To: Kelley Diehl, Northwest Region Licensing Specialist Circuits 2 & 14

From: Kristy Hancock, Foster Family Specialist, Life Management Center of Northwest Florida

Date: 09/11/2018

Re: Recommendation for Revocation of Foster Home License- Dawndrell Martin and Mary Highsmith

This Memo is to inform that as the contracted Foster Home Licensing Supervising Agency for Circuit 14, Life Management Center of NWFL, is requesting the revocation of the foster home license issued on November 16, 2017 for the home occupied by Dawndrell Martin and Mary Highsmith. The request is based on the Child Protective Investigator's recommendation following the recent abuse investigation #2018-612266 that was commenced on July 16, 2018 and was closed on August 27, 2018 [REDACTED]. On September 15, 2018, Dawndrell Martin was arrested by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office in Marianna, Florida [REDACTED]

The request to revoke is based on a direct violation of Child Welfare Administrative Rule 65C-13 which placed the safety of the foster children in their home at risk. Please see the following violation and the corresponding rule that was not met.

Administrative Rule Violation:

On July 16, 2018 an intake report was accepted [REDACTED]

On July 18, 2018 a conference call was held as to the intake 2018-612226-01.

The following participants were:

Daniel Henry, CPI
Sheyla Ferguson, CPIS
Regina Pleas-Regional Licensing Supervisor
Jeanne Durden-Big Bend CBC Licensing Specialist
Gordy Pyper-Big Bend CBC
Sarah Spencer-Contract with DCF
Julie Moulder, Christina Corbin, Leketha Harrison-Anchorage Children's Home Case Management
Kristy Hancock-LMC Licensing
Cathy Harcus, Amy Worley-LMC Licensing Supervisors
Big Bend Placement-John Sablan
Darlene Rock-Intake/Placement Program Director

Administrative Rule Reference

65C-13.030 Standards for Licensed Out-of-Home Caregivers.

(3) Discipline.

(a) Licensed out-of-home caregivers shall discipline children with kindness, consistency, and understanding, and with the purpose of helping the child develop responsibility and self-control.

(b) Licensed out-of-home caregivers shall use positive methods of discipline. Acceptable methods of discipline include: reinforcing acceptable behavior, expressing verbal disappointment of the child's behavior, loss of privileges, and grounding, restricting the child to the house or yard, sending the child out of the room and away from the family activity, and redirecting the child's activity.

(c) Licensed out-of-home caregivers shall not subject children to cruel, severe, or unusual forms of

The basis of this conference call was to discuss the steps in the investigation, information collected thus far, and the investigative steps left moving forward. Due to the seriousness of the allegations, all of the children were removed from the Martin home. A decision was made to have another conference call when the investigation was completed prior to closure.

A follow up conference call with contracted licensing partners--Big Bend, LMC and Department Children and Families was conducted on August 27, 2018. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Law enforcement was notified and an investigation was opened by Investigator Edwards with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. Law enforcement has concluded their open investigation and sent an affidavit for criminal charges to the State Attorney's Office for review. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Investigator Edwards has made multiple collateral contacts, including with the daycare staff and with the child's trauma counselor. CPI Henry has reflected the information provided by Inv. Edwards in his assessment [REDACTED]

August 27, 2018 the investigation was closed [REDACTED] to the intake 2018-612266-01 that was accepted to the hotline on July 16, 2018 [REDACTED]

On August 27, 2018 it was stated in the closing investigation summary that [REDACTED]

discipline.

(d) Licensed out-of-home caregivers shall not use corporal punishments of any kind.

Prohibited disciplinary practices include group punishment for misbehavior of individuals, withholding of meals; mail or family visits; hitting a child with an object; spanking a child; physical, sexual, emotional and verbal abuse; humiliating or degrading punishment which subjects the child to ridicule; placing a child in a locked room; and delegation of authority for punishment to other children or persons not known to the child.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On September 12, 2018 Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center' Child Protection Team's final Case Summary Report was uploaded into FSFN. Recommendations for Safety Management: [REDACTED]

On October 26, 2017 Foster Family Specialist discussed the Disciplinary Policy with Dawndrell Martin and Mary Highsmith and both Caregivers signed that they understood and agreed to adhere to the policy during the initial licensing process.

Foster Family Support with Life Management Center has not had any reports or concerns regarding the safety care or, discipline of the children placed in the foster home prior to abuse report 2018-612266-01. The home has been in compliance with all safety requirements and care of the children observed at quarterly home visits and other interactions.

65 C-13.029 Standards for Out of Home Caregivers
(d) Each licensed out-of-home caregiver shall sign a "Partnership Plan for Children in Out-of-Home Care," incorporated by reference in Rule 65C-13.025, F.A.C. The agreement shall be reviewed and discussed with a licensing counselor prior to initial licensure and again at each re-licensure. The document must be signed by a representative from the supervising agency, the potential or licensed out-of-home caregiver, and at placement by the case manager.
Out of home caregivers shall be a member of a team that supports children and youth in out of home care.